



UIA Declaration to the Special session of the UN General Assembly in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

3 and 4 December 2020

On behalf of the International Union of Architects (UIA), we draw your attention to the critical role of architecture in the challenge of coping with the current coronavirus pandemic, and with future global outbreaks of infectious disease.

Architects create the spaces in which most of the world's inhabitants live, move, congregate, heal, learn, work, and play. From the urban design of the greatest cities to the sleeping pod in an airport, the anthropometrics of space, human safety, and comfort are all considered, and are important to the architect's work.

This global pandemic underscores the critical need for spaces designed to ensure and promote good health. Rapid architectural interventions to contain the virus have been witnessed across the world, all relying on scientifically based spatial distancing, principles of hygiene, and non-contaminating air circulation, focused on human activities and interior ventilation systems.

Most important is recognition of the key part natural ventilation plays in the control of indoor air spread via aerosolized particles. Daylighting and exposure to sunlight are also beneficial.

The UIA, representing the world's 3.2 million architects, has established the [*UIA COVID-19 Information Hub*](#), affording free online access to all who seek contemporary guidelines for the design and use of a multitude of building types and public spaces. Examples appropriate to a variety of contexts around the globe are contributed by UIA Member Sections. All examples specifically address a range of environments designed to limit health risks.

The UIA encourages further research on indoor air quality and the role of indoor air in the spread and aerosolization of pathogens. We seek to collaborate with other groups, including the World Health Organization, to develop design guidelines and solutions supported by scientific evidence.

UIA member experience and expertise in environmental design can benefit all. We continue the drive to better understand the various factors in the design of indoor and outdoor environments to control the spread of viruses, and to develop adaptable design guidelines and solutions.

We will welcome an opportunity to work with the United Nations in developing and promulgating building-based solutions that help thwart the spread of COVID-19.